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From: Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2009 10:21 AM
To: Han, Linda (DPH)
Subject: FW: bill for changes in the drug laws
Attachments: Law proposal nocvr topof pag.doc

Importance: High

Can we discuss today? Michael will be doing this on his own time but I want to be clear as to whether this is a violation of state ethics regulations?

From: Lawler, Michael (DPH)
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2009 7:31 PM
To: Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Cc: Salemi, Charles (DPH); O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH)
Subject: bill for changes in the drug laws

Julie,

At the recent ADA conference, you alluded to "a bill for changes in the drug laws." Were you alluding to my efforts or another source?

I have taken November 3 off to do some advocacy work for my proposal. If bills aren't out of committees by December, they sit in review committee or calendar committee for another cycle; that is, a year.
I'm going downtown to try to move my proposals further along. Are there other proposals out there?

The three sections of the proposal I've got floating around consider:

- 1) adoption of the Federal statute for cocaine, which reduces the vague issues of isomers to the point where we will not have to do the microcrystal tests. A microcrystal test *used to be fairly simple and took about a minute per sample*. We are seeing a doubling or tripling of that time now with a new generation of diluents or "cutting" agents. A rather rare event in the past, samples more frequently require acidifying and cooking to get crystals to form. The Federal statute eliminates the need to test out pseudococaine, allococaine and pseudoallococaine by the gold chloride test. We would no longer have to distinguish L-cocaine from D-cocaine, so the TLTA test is eliminated as well.
- 2) Amendment to the line for Ketamine chloride. This sexual assault drug can occur as several different salts with the same metabolic consequences. The statute literally classifies only ketamine hydrochloride as a Class A drug. The law cannot be applied to ketamine phosphate or ketamine sulfate, etc. This is not a "recreational drug." It is used primarily as a knockout agent. All forms can facilitate assault and the statute should be corrected.
- 3) Amendment to the line for MDMA is somewhat like the ketamine proposal. MDMA is a base unit and the statute doesn't note the potential salt forms and classify them. This is an important club/rave drug responsible for death by fever. The statute should be repaired to address the range of salt forms we are likely to see.

I've attached my proposal. Anyone care to share their thoughts before I go Tuesday?